

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 /034 W  
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R 242131Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9396  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0538

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, JM  
SUBJECT: "DAILY NEWS" IN RECEIVERSHIP

REFERENCE: A. 77 KINGSTON 7486 B. 77 KINGSTON 7796

1. THE "DAILY NEWS" WENT INTO RECEIVERSHIP ON JANUARY 18 AS A RESULT OF ITS WORSENING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. THE RECEIVER IS AN OFFICER OF THE JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT BANK (JDB), HOLDER OF A LARGE DEBENTURE ISSUED BY THE NEWSPAPER'S OWNER, THE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION OF JAMAICA (CCJ). THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED BY THE JDB AND CCJ STATED THAT THE ACTION WAS "TAKEN IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING PUBLICATION OF THE 'DAILY NEWS' AND THE PROTECTION OF THE WORKERS." THE JDB AND CCJ HAVE WORKED OUT A PLAN WHICH THEY HOPE WILL RESTORE THE NEWSPAPER TO ECONOMIC VIABILITY.

2. COMMENT: THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE SIGNS THAT THE "DAILY NEWS" WILL CEASE PUBLICATION. HOWEVER, THE EFFORTS TO RESTORE IT TO HEALTH MAY WELL PROMPT A DECISION FOR SOME FURTHER REDUCTION IN STAFF. THE  
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NATIONAL WORKERS UNION (NWU), WHICH REPRESENTS THE STAFF OF THE "DAILY NEWS" WAS WILLING TO ACQUIESCE IN THE FIRST CUT (REF B) BUT COULD WELL BALK AT ANY FURTHER REDUCTION. UNLESS SOME REASONABLY EARLY CURE IS FOUND TO THE ILLS OF THE "DAILY NEWS", WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE GROWING PRESSURE FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION. SHOULD THAT OCCUR, THE

GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTROL BOTH RADIO NETWORKS, THE  
SOLE TELEVISION NETWORK AND THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE  
NEWSPAPER TO "THE GLEANER".

3. WHILE "THE GLEANER" HAS IN THE PAST BEEN A  
VIGOROUSLY INDEPENDENT VOICE, AMUTING OF ITS  
CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SHORTCOMINGS IS DETEC-  
TABLE. COLUMNIST DAVID D'COSTA HAS DROPPED HIS  
THRICE-WEEKLY COLUMN AND HIS COLLEAGUE, WILMOT PERKINS,  
IS OBSERVING A SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE AS HE SEEKS TO  
NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH "THE GLEANER" WHICH  
PAYS HIM MORE THAN HIS PRESENT \$140 PER WEEK. (PERKINS  
WAS UNTROUBLED BY HIS MEAGRE PAY AS LONG AS  
HIS WIFE REMAINED IN THE EMPLOY OF RJR AS WRITER  
AND PRODUCER OF THE ISLAND'S MOST POPULAR SOAP  
OPERA. HOWEVER, HER CONTRACT IS BEING ALLOWED TO  
LAPSE FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACQUISITION OF RJR,  
AND THE PERKINSES NOW FACE SEVERE STRINGENCIES. THE  
COMMITMENT OF "THE GLEANER" TO AN INDEPENDENT ROLE  
MAY BE INDICATED BY THE WAY IN WHICH IT DEALS WITH  
PERKINS.  
IRVING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWSPAPERS, BANKRUPTCIES, BUSINESS LOSSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KINGST00538  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 KINGSTON 7486  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3726153  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** \"DAILY NEWS\" IN RECEIVERSHIP  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PINT, JM, DAILY NEWS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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